

REMARKS

This Amendment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116(b) is submitted in reply to the final Office Action mailed on September 30, 2009. No fee is due in connection with this Amendment. The Director is authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-1818. If such a withdrawal is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket No. 3712036-447 on the account statement.

Claims 1, 4-9, 20-26, 28-31, 33, 35-37 and 39-55 are pending. Claims 30 and 39 were previously withdrawn. Claims 2-3, 10-19, 27, 32, 34 and 38 were previously canceled. In the Office Action, Claims 35-36 are objected to; Claims 1, 4-9, 20-26, 28-29, 31, 33, 37 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102; and Claims 41-55 are allowed. In response Applicants have canceled Claims 1, 4-9, 20-26, 28-29, 31, 33, 35-37 and 40 without prejudice or disclaimer and added Claims 56-57. No new matter has been introduced by way of the amendments. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the canceled claims in a continuation application.

Applicants have canceled Claims 1, 4-9, 20-26, 28-29, 31, 33, 37 and 40 thereby rendering moot the rejections of these claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 35-36 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, new Claims 56-57 have been added and effectively represent the subject matter as defined in Claims 35-36, respectively, in allowable form as suggested by the Patent Office.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified patent application and earnestly solicit an early allowance of same. In the event there remains any impediment to allowance of the claims which could be clarified in a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate such an interview with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 23, 2009